

IN THE CLAIMS:

35. (Previously Amended) A vacuum process apparatus for processing at least one workpiece, comprising a chamber with

two openings defining respective opening areas; and

a transport device with said vacuum chamber having a drive shaft rotatable around a rotational axis of said drive shaft; and

two conveyors defining a support plane for at least one workpiece each, and a transport arm for each conveyor mounted opposite each other and projecting from said drive shaft;

wherein said arms are operatively coupled to said conveyors to move said conveyors independently of each other with a radial component relative to said drive shaft, and

said support plane is perpendicular to said radial component, said conveyors comprising a seal member for sealingly closing one of said openings when said conveyors are moved to a position adjacent said openings by said transport device and are moved toward said one of said openings.

36. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein said openings defining an opening area each, with normals on said opening areas rectangularly intersecting said rotational axis.

37. (Previously amended) The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein said conveyors are movable normally with respect to said drive shaft.

38. (Previously amended) The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein said conveyors, once positioned adjacent one of said openings by rotation of said transport device, are movable towards and from said opening in a normal direction of said opening areas.

39. (Previously amended) The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein rotation of said transport device around said rotational axis substantially define a cone-shaped trajectory surface with a cone opening angle with respect to said rotational axis of 90° .

40. (Previously amended) The apparatus of Claim 39, wherein each of said openings defines an opening area, with normals on said opening areas pointing in a direction of respective generatrix of said cone-shaped trajectory surface.

41. (Previously amended) The apparatus of Claim 40, wherein said openings are arranged along a circle cut by said cone-shaped trajectory surface by a geometric plane arranged perpendicularly to said rotational axis.

42. (Previously amended) The apparatus of Claim 35, said transport device residing within said chamber further comprising a load lock chamber and a treating station communicating by one of said openings with said chamber.

43. (Previously amended) The apparatus of Claim 42, further comprising gas inlet means and pumping means at least at one of said station and chamber.

45. (Previously amended) The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein said seal member is formed by a conveyor plate for said workpiece.

46. (Previously amended) The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein each said conveyor comprises a conveyor plate with a projecting positioning pin for positioning a disk shaped workpiece with a central bore.

47. (Previously amended) The apparatus of Claim 46, further comprising holding means for said workpiece on said conveyor plate.

48. (Previously amended) The apparatus of Claim 47, said holding means being formed by spring means acting radially with respect to said pin.

49. (Previously amended) The apparatus of Claim 35, said workpiece being one of compact disk workpieces and of magneto-optical storage disk workpieces.

50. (Previously amended) The apparatus of Claim 36, said two conveyors being linearly movable towards and from said axis by respective drives provided at said respective arms.

51. (Previously amended) The apparatus of Claim 50, wherein said drives are encapsulated by bellows.

52. (Currently amended) A vacuum chamber for processing at least one workpiece, comprising two openings defining respective opening areas; a transport device with a drive shaft for rotating said transport device around a rotational axis of said drive shaft; two conveyors defining a support plane and a transport arm for each conveyor mounted opposite each other and each being operatively coupled to one of said conveyors to move said conveyors independently of each other with a radial component relative to said drive shaft, and

said support plane is perpendicular to said radial component, said conveyors comprising a seal member for sealingly closing one of said openings when said conveyors are moved to a position adjacent said openings by said transport device and are moved toward said one of said openings.

53. (Currently amended) The chamber of Claim 52, wherein each of said openings defines an opening area, with normals on said opening areas rectangularly intersecting said rotational axis.

54. (Previously amended) The chamber of Claim 52, wherein said conveyors are movable normally with respect to said rotational axis.

72. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing at least two workpieces, comprising

providing a vacuum chamber with at least two openings defining respective opening areas,

providing a transport device having a drive shaft rotatable around a rotational axis of said drive shaft,

providing at least two conveyors for at least one disk-shaped workpiece each and each defining a support plane for said at least one disk-shaped workpiece, and providing a transport arm for each conveyor mounted to and projecting from said drive shaft,

said transport arms being operatively coupled to said conveyors to move said conveyors independently of each other relative to said drive shaft and in a direction at least with a radial component with respect to said drive shaft and with said support planes being perpendicular to said direction,

applying a disk-shaped workpiece upon said support plane of each of said conveyors,

providing at at least one of said at least two openings a vacuum treating station,

rotating said transport device and therewith said workpieces so as to align at least one of said two workpieces with one of said openings,

moving said conveyor with said one workpiece by said respective arm towards said opening and treating said one workpiece on said support plane of said one conveyor at said one opening by said vacuum treatment chamber,

retracting said treated workpiece from said one opening; and

rotating said transport device to align said treated workpiece with a further of said at least two openings and removing said treated workpiece from said vacuum treatment chamber through said further opening.

73. (New) The method of Claim 72, wherein said chamber has two of said openings and two of said conveyors whose transport arms are mounted opposite each other, whereby said transport device and therewith said workpieces are rotated by 180° to align each of said workpieces with a respective one of said openings.